

Docket No. 789-39-1

Appln. No. 10/700,944

Amendment

Reply to Office Action dated September 23, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick, comprising the steps of:
providing two longitudinal rectangular wooden half-cores having a proximate end portion, a distal end portion and a central portion;
for each half-core, machining a channel in at least the central portion thereof;
assembling the machined half-cores face-to-face to thereby yield a hollow wooden core provided with a cavity in at least its a central portion thereof, the assembled machined half-cores defining a joint therebetween; and
mounting a joint reinforcement layer to the hollow wooden core so that the joint reinforcement layer reinforces the joint between the two half-cores,
said channel machining step including machining a generally semi-cylindrical channel.
2. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint reinforcement layer mounting step includes ~~the~~ mounting of a relatively thin reinforcement strip on either opposite wider faces of the hollow wooden core.
3. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 2, wherein said joint reinforcement layer mounting step further includes ~~the~~ mounting of a layer of high modulus fabric enclosing the hollow wooden core and the relatively thin reinforcement strips.
4. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint reinforcement layer mounting step includes ~~the~~ mounting of a layer of high modulus fabric enclosing the hollow wooden core.

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5. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said machined half-core assembling step includes applying an adhesive to the half-cores.

6. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint reinforcement layer mounting step includes applying an adhesive to at least one of the joint reinforcement layer and the hollow wooden core.

7. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said channel machining step includes machining a generally U-shaped channel.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1 ~~8~~, wherein said joint reinforcement layer mounting step includes mounting a cylindrical tube in the longitudinal semi-cylindrical channels of ~~said~~ the half-cores.

10. (Currently amended) The method for making ~~the~~ a shaft of a hockey stick as recited in claim 1, wherein said wooden half-cores providing step includes providing wooden half-cores made of wood selected from the group consisting of aspen and poplar.